

Message Text

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(SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF MONROVIA SUMMIT

REF: ABIDJAN 2732

BEGIN SUMMARY

EXTENSIVE, POSITIVE COVERAGE OF MONROVIA SUMMIT CONTINUES. MARCH 22 ISSUE OF SEMI-OFFICIAL "FRATERNITE MATIN" (HEADLINED "IVORY COAST - GUINEA RECONCILIATION: NATIONAL COUNCIL SATISFIED") FEATURES ARTICLES ON PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL TO REPORT ON THE MONROVIA SUMMIT, AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER AKE AND BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GUINEA COLONY IN IVORY COAST. LEAD ARTICLE RE-
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PORTS IVORY COAST AND GUINEA WILL EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

END SUMMARY

2. WITHOUT GIVING MANY DETAILS, ONE ARTICLE STATES FOREIGN MINISTER AKE SPOKE FIRST AND BRIEFED THE NATIONAL

COUNCIL ON THE STEPS THAT EVENTUALLY TOOK HOUPHOUET AND SENGHOR TO MONROVIA "SO SEAL" A RECONCILIATION WITH SEKOU TOURE. AKE ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT. AKE CONCLUDED BY PARAPHRASING HOUPHOUET TO THE EFFECT THAT, "EVERYONE HAD COME TO MONROVIA TO SERVE AFRICA AND THAT, FROM THIS 'SUMMIT OF UNITY,' THERE NEED RESULT NEITHER CONQUERORS NOR CONQUERED."

3. STATING THAT IVORY COAST AND GUINEA WILL EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, ANOTHER ARTICLE THEN SUMMARIZES HOUPHOUET'S REMARKS. HOUPHOUET REVIEWED THE GENESIS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN IVORY COAST AND GUINEA DURING THE COLONIAL ERA AND THE NEW POSSIBILITIES NOW OPEN TO BOTH COUNTRIES FOR A HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT. HE STRONGLY APPEALED TO THE YOUTH OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO ADOPT THE AFRICAN VIRTUES OF BROTHERHOOD, TOLERANCE AND THE ABILITY TO FORGIVE AND FORGET. HOUPHOUET STRESSED THE WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION OF SEKOU TOURE TO ERASE THE PAST AND TURN A NEW PAGE TOWARDS COOPERATION FOR THE WELL BEING OF AFRICA. HE ASKED THE GUINEAN COLONY IN IVORY COAST "TO AID" SEKOU TOURE KEEP THE SOLEMN PLEDGE HE TOOK AT MONROVIA, AND TO ACCEPT "THE IVORIAN POSITION OF PEACE WITH JUSTICE SO THAT, WITHIN A REGAINED UNITY AND CONCORD, OUR TWO COUNTRIES MAY WORK FOR THE WELL
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BEING OF OUR SUB-REGION." WITH AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO THE SOVIETS, THE CUBANS AND THEIR ASSORTED ALLIES, HOUPHOUET CONCLUDED BY STATING, "MANY PEOPLE OUTSIDE AFRICA REJOICE FOR THE ENTENTE ACHIEVED (AT MONROVIA). BY COMPARISON OTHERS (OUTSIDE AFRICA) ARE DESPONDENT. LET US DO ALL WE CAN SO THAT THE LATTER REMAIN AND BECOME EVEN MORE DESPONDENT*"

4. FINALLY, SPEAKING FOR THE GUINEAN COLONY IN IVORY COAST, BARRY BASSIROU MADE A WARM STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE MONROVIA SUMMIT. HE STATED THE SUMMIT WAS "A HISTORIC MILESTONE ON THE PATH TO PAECE," AND THAT THE GUINEAN COLONY PUBLICLY AND WITHOUT RESERVATION REAFFIRMED ITS ATTACHMENT TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND HIS POLICIES.
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